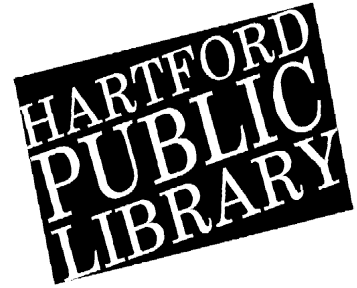


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HartfordInfo To Collaborate With Mayor's Community Building Initiative

April 28, 2004 ... HartfordInfo, a new online site hosted by the Hartford Public Library that includes information and data on many aspects of the capital city, will serve as a resource for Mayor Eddie Perez's Community Building Initiative, a grassroots effort to address critical issues facing neighborhoods in Hartford's North End.

HartfordInfo was established last year to promote the well being of Hartford's communities by democratizing information and data from a wide variety of sources, by making it easily accessible, and by facilitating its interpretation and use. HartfordInfo promotes the use of information and data in local policymaking and community building.

The Mayor's Community Building Initiative empowers residents to make positive changes at the neighborhood level. Among the activities of the Initiative is a community strategic planning process modeled after the Communities That Care® program developed by the Channing Bete Company, Inc. A wide variety of data and information is needed to support the planning process, much of it to be provided by HartfordInfo. The outcome of the process will be a plan and recommendations for strengthening North End neighborhoods.

Mayor Eddie Perez stated that, "The Community Building Initiative is among my high priorities. HartfordInfo is an important City resource that will support the work of the many residents and stakeholders in the community who are working on the Communities That Care planning process."

HartfordInfo provides local as well as national data on topics such as public education, public health, juvenile justice, vital records, crime data, census records, mortgage information, and employment data. It also provides full text access to key Hartford documents such as the City charter, reports of the Mayor's homeownership and workforce development initiatives, the

“Greenberg Report,” and others. In the future, it will also maintain indicators of economic and social progress for Hartford as a whole as well as for neighborhoods and communities.

“We are very pleased to be supporting the Mayor’s Community Building Initiative. This is exactly the kind of collaboration we had in mind when we established HartfordInfo,” said Chief Librarian Louise Blalock.

According to Andrew Woods, co-chair of the Community Building Initiative, “HartfordInfo is playing a valuable role in the Communities That Care planning process by providing data that helps us understand the community. This will be critical as we move towards designing strategies to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods.”

HartfordInfo is a member of the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP), a consortium of twenty-one cities around the country dedicated to the maintenance of community information systems and to promoting the use of information and data in local policymaking and community building. NNIP is coordinated by the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C.

HartfordInfo gets some of its data from the National Change Database (NCDB), which normalizes data from the 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000 U. S. Censuses so that it can be accurately compared over time. This resource is made possible through HartfordInfo’s membership in the NNIP.

HartfordInfo is a collaboration of the Hartford Public Library and the Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS), the Connecticut Policy and Economic Council (CPEC), the Citizens Research and Education Network (CREN), and the Institute for Community Research (ICR). HartfordInfo is made possible with the support of the Hartford Public Library and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

HartfordInfo can be accessed by going to <http://www.hartfordinfo.org/>.